

ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

A compatible optical pickup, including first and second light sources for emitting lights with different wavelengths and first and second photodetectors for detecting an information signal and/or an error signal, and a method of detecting the amount of output light using the compatible optical pickup. The first photodetector monitors the amount of light output from the second light source, and the second photodetector monitors the amount of light output from the first light source. Since the first and second photodetectors are used to detect a signal for use in monitoring the amount of light output from each of the second and first light sources, no extra front photodetectors are required. Thus, the number of optical component parts included in the optical pickup can be reduced, thereby lowering the manufacturing costs for the optical pickup. Also, there is no need to secure a space in a base where a front photodetector is to be installed, so the base is simplified. Thus, inferior moldings are reduced, and the durability of a mold can be prolonged.